

Claims:

- 5 1. A recombinant HuEPO-L-vFc fusion protein comprising HuEPO, a peptide linker, and a human IgG Fc variant.
- 10 2. The peptide linker in claim 1 containing about 20 or fewer amino acids is present between HuEPO and the human IgG Fc variant; and the peptide linker comprises two or more amino acids selected from the group consisting of glycine, serine, alanine, and threonine.
- 15 3. The human IgG Fc variant in claim 1 comprising a hinge, CH2, and CH3 domains of human IgG2 with Pro331Ser mutation.
- 20 4. The human IgG Fc variant in claim 1 comprising a hinge, CH2, and CH3 domains of human IgG4 with Ser228Pro and Leu235Ala mutations.
- 25 5. The human IgG Fc variant in claim 1 comprising a hinge, CH2, and CH3 domains of human IgG1 with Leu234Val, Leu235Ala, and Pro331Ser mutations.
- 30 6. The HuEPO-L-vFc fusion protein of claim 1 which exhibits an enhanced *in vitro* biological activity of at least 2 fold relative to that of rHuEPO on a molar basis.
7. A CHO-derived cell line producing the HuEPO-L-vFc fusion protein of claim 1 in its growth medium in excess of 10 μ g per million cells in a 24 hour period.
8. The CHO-derived cell line producing the HuEPO-L-vFc fusion protein of claim 7 in its growth medium in excess of 30 μ g per million cells in a 24 hour period.
9. The CHO-derived cell line producing the HuEPO-L-vFc fusion protein of claim 1, wherein the human IgG Fc variant comprises a hinge, CH2, and CH3 domains of human IgG selected from the group consisting of IgG1, IgG2, and IgG4, the

IgG Fc contains amino acid mutations to attenuate effector functions, a flexible peptide linker containing about 20 or fewer amino acids is present between HuEPO and human IgG Fc variant, and the HuEPO-L-vFc fusion protein exhibits an enhanced *in vitro* biological activity of at least 2 fold relative to that of rHuEPO on a molar basis.

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10. A method for making a recombinant fusion protein comprising HuEPO, a flexible peptide linker, and a human IgG Fc variant, which method comprises: (a) generating a CHO-derived cell line; (b) growing the cell line under conditions the recombinant protein is expressed in its growth medium in excess of 10 µg per million cells in a 24 hour period; and (c) purifying the expressed protein from step (b), wherein the recombinant fusion protein exhibits an enhanced *in vitro* biological activity of at least 2 fold relative to that of rHuEPO on a molar basis.

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11. The method of claim 10, wherein step (b) is in excess of 30 µg per million cells in a 24 hour period.

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12. The method of claim 10, wherein the flexible peptide linker containing about 20 or fewer amino acids is present between HuEPO and the human IgG Fc variant; and the peptide linker comprises two or more amino acids selected from the group consisting of glycine, serine, alanine, and threonine.

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13. The method of claim 12, wherein step (b) is in excess of 30 µg per million cells in a 24 hour period.

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14. The method of claim 10, wherein the human IgG Fc variant comprises a hinge, CH2, and CH3 domains of human IgG2 with Pro331Ser mutation.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein step (b) is in excess of 30 µg per million cells in a 24 hour period.

16. The method of claim 10, wherein the human IgG Fc variant comprises a hinge, CH2, and CH3 domains of human IgG4 with Ser228Pro and Leu235Ala mutations.
- 5 17. The method of claim 16, wherein step (b) is in excess of 30 μ g per million cells in a 24 hour period.
18. The method of claim 10, wherein the human IgG Fc variant comprises a hinge, CH2, and CH3 domains of human IgG1 with Leu234Val, Leu235Ala, and
- 10 Pro331Ser mutations.
19. The method of claim 18, wherein step (b) is in excess of 30 μ g per million cells in a 24 hour period.
- 15 20. A method for making a recombinant fusion protein comprising HuEPO, a flexible peptide linker, and a human IgG Fc variant, which method comprises: (a) generating a CHO-derived cell line; (b) growing the cell line under conditions the recombinant protein is expressed in its growth medium in excess of 10 μ g per million cells in a 24 hour period; and (c) purifying the expressed protein from step (b), wherein the recombinant fusion protein exhibits an enhanced *in vitro* biological activity of at least 2 fold relative to that of rHuEPO on a molar basis; wherein the flexible peptide linker containing about 20 or fewer amino acids is present between HuEPO and the human IgG Fc variant; and the peptide linker comprises two or more amino acids selected from the group consisting of glycine, serine, alanine, and threonine; wherein the human IgG Fc variant comprises a
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- 25 hinge, CH2, and CH3 domains selected from the group consisting of human IgG2 with Pro331Ser mutation, human IgG4 with Ser228Pro and Leu235Ala mutations, and human IgG1 with Leu234Val, Leu235Ala, and Pro331Ser mutations.